SPRING 2008

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The Mohegan Way

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What is Sovereignty and why is it Important to Native American Tribes?

Photo: Bill Gucfa, Mohegan Tribal Publications

Sovereignty is the most fundamental concept that defines the relationship between the government of the United States of America and governments of Native American Tribes.

Native Tribal Governments are the oldest governments in existence in the Western Hemisphere. In fact, The Constitution of The Seven Iroquois Nations, which was called "The Great Law of Peace," governed an alliance of Indian Tribes that was already in place four hundred years before the first European settlers arrived in the New World.

The Mohegan Tribe traveled from the area once governed by that Native Constitution to the region that is now known as Southeastern Connecticut more than 350 years ago and has maintained a sovereign governmental structure ever since. In fact, when the English formed its "Connecticut Colony," the new settlers formally recognized the sovereignty of the Mohegan Tribe in the Treaty of Hartford in 1638.

When the United States was formed, almost 150 years later, the U.S. Constitution recognized the Tribal governments and included the language that guarantees the existence of Native American sovereignty today.

Since then, the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized Tribal sovereignty in numerous court decisions. In 1831, the Supreme Court ruled that Native Americans had the full legal right to manage their own affairs, govern themselves internally, and engage in legal and political relationships with the federal government and its subdivisions.

The following year, the Supreme Court ruled that Indian Tribes are "distinct political communities, retaining their original rights as the undisputed possessors of the soil from time immemorial... the very term 'nation', so generally applied to them, means a people distinct from others, having territorial boundaries, within which their authority is exclusive, and having a right to all the lands within those boundaries, which is not only acknowledged but guaranteed by the United States."

From a legal standpoint, the importance of the Constitutional guarantees are perhaps stated best by Supreme Court Justice Felix Cohen, who wrote in 1942 that "Indian sovereignty is the principle

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Photo: Bill Gucfa, Mohegan Tribal Publications

2007 was a year of important events for the Mohegan Tribe. We saw the end of one era with the passing of our beloved Lifetime Chief Ralph Sturges in October. Chief Sturges was always guided by his code of "perseverance, integrity and honor," and he played a major role in the Tribe's successful effort to gain federal recognition and use our sovereignty wisely to help the members of our Tribe, the employees of Mohegan Sun and the people of Connecticut.

In 2007, we also took major steps to preserve the Tribe's most important historic sites and artifacts. The site of Chief Uncas' meetings with his Council during the colonial era—locally known as Cochegan Rock—was repurchased by the Tribe and will be permanently preserved and protected. We continued with the repatriation of the Royal Mohegan Burial Ground in Norwich, which will open with new plantings and memorial stones in the spring. The spring of 2008 will also see the re-opening of a newly restored Tantaquidgeon Museum.

Last June, we also announced Mohegan Sun's third phase of construction, a $925 million expansion that will help keep our business on the cutting edge and ensure that we continue to serve as a major engine of economic growth and opportunity for the region and Connecticut.

The Tribe has also worked to maintain our ancient commitment to honor the Earth. We moved forward with a wide range of Green initiatives for both Mohegan Sun and The Mohegan Tribe, including a new commitment to purchase additional fuel cells, the use of green cleaning products throughout our facilities, and the increased use of natural gas and bio-diesel vehicles. Our commitment to the environment includes changes right here with *The Mohegan Way*. We are now printing this publication on Mohawk Options paper, which is 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Fiber (PC), Process Chlorine-Free (PCF), Green-e certified, Certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and printed by Harty Press, Inc.—an FSC-certified printer.

In 2008, we will remain focused on strengthening our vital partnerships with our employees, our business colleagues, and the State of Connecticut and its people. It's the way Chief Sturges would have wanted it, and it's the way we will continue honor him and all of those who came before him.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Chairman Bruce "Two Dogs" Bozsum
on behalf of the entire Mohegan Tribal Council

Project Horizon Update:

Project Horizon, the Mohegan Tribe's latest expansion at Mohegan Sun, continues to take shape. The project is creating nearly 2,000 new construction jobs and will add more than 1,500 permanent jobs at Mohegan Sun. In addition to the Mohegan Sun positions, even more jobs will be created in the new restaurants and retail shops that will be opening as part of Project Horizon.

The new Casino of the Wind is scheduled to open in the early fall of 2008, and will include the two-story Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Restaurant and Retail Complex, with both indoor and outdoor dining options.

In October of 2010, several new attractions will be added to Mohegan Sun. The nationally recognized House of Blues opens a new outlet at Mohegan Sun, combining a concert venue, retail outlet, restaurant, and private Foundation room. The new Earth Tower hotel will contain approximately 1,000 rooms, including 300 dedicated to the House of Blues theme. Two new corridors—Spirit of the Earth and Spirit of the Sea—will bring new shopping and dining options to Mohegan Sun.

The key design features of Project Horizon will continue to celebrate Mohegan culture and tradition. The Earth Tower lobby, for example, will contain a reflecting pool representing the spirits of the sea, Earth and sky. Its 13 springs will represent the 13 months in the Mohegan year, the 13 sections on a turtle (upon whose back the Earth was formed), and the Tribe's underlying belief in their duty to honor the 13 generations of the past while working to build a better future for the 13 generations yet to come.

When the expansion is complete, Mohegan Sun will include over 75 retail and dining venues, 30 bars and lounges, over 2,000 hotel rooms, four major entertainment venues and over 7,000 slot machines, all housed within the 5-million-square-foot facility.

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that those powers which are lawfully vested in an Indian Tribe are not delegated powers granted by express acts of Congress, but rather inherent powers of a limited sovereignty which can never be extinguished."

During the 20th Century, the United States Congress passed numerous pieces of legislation implementing and strengthening the rights and responsibilities laid out in the Constitution, including the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 that restored Tribal lands and permitted Tribes to reorganize under federal law for purposes of self-government.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 was another example of the way in which Native Tribes and American governments function. The law, aimed at providing Native Tribes with a vehicle for promoting economic self-sufficiency, was based on the fundamental requirement that in order for Tribes to develop gaming enterprises, states and Native Tribes would need to develop and approve compacts. The compacts would serve as the treaties or agreements that would then govern development and oversight of Tribal gaming operations.

As a direct result of the compact between Connecticut and the sovereign governments of the Mohegan and Mashantucket-PequotTribes, Native American gaming has become an important part of Connecticut's economy. The two Tribes provide over 20,000 jobs, and purchase nearly $700 million from companies based here in Connecticut. According to recent studies, the Connecticut Tribes' outside economic activities help to maintain upward of 50,000 jobs in the state. And, of course, the Tribes have become a major source of revenue for the state of Connecticut and its 169 cities and towns, providing over $4 billion since the casinos opened, with an additional $400 million projected for this year alone.

Here in Connecticut, we've seen firsthand the role and importance of sovereignty. We've seen what can be achieved when we understand and build upon our historical and legal relationships while seeking cooperation and partnerships based on mutual respect and communication.

For Native Americans, sovereignty serves as the vital foundation of our existence, while communication, cooperation, partnership and teamwork serve as the building blocks for a better and more vibrant future for all Americans.

Photo: Bill Gucfa, Mohegan Tribal Publications

Mohegan Tribal Council

Front row (left to right):
Allison D. Johnson: Recording Secretary
Bruce "Two Dogs" Bozsum: Chairman
Marilynn "Lynn" Malerba: Vice Chairwoman
William Quidgeon, Jr.: Treasurer

Back row (left to right):
Cheryl A. Todd: Councilor
"Matahga" Mark F. Brown: Ambassador
Ralph James Gessner, Jr.:
Corresponding Secretary
Mark W. Hamilton: Councilor
Thayne D. Hutchins, Jr.: Councilor

Photo: Bill Gucfa, Mohegan Tribal Publications

Mohegan Tribal Elders

Front row (left to right):
Maynard L. Strickland: Elder and Justice
Marie Pineault: Elder and Justice
Robert (Bob) Francis Soper:
Secretary and Justice

Back row (left to right):
William "Dancing Shadow" Andrews:
Elder and Justice
John Henry Clark: Chairman and Chief Justice
Joseph "Wolf Who Walks Alone" Gray:
Vice Chairman and Justice
Austin Fish, Jr.: Treasurer and Justice

The Mohegan Tribe's Tantaquidgeon Museum

Photo: Bill Gucfa, Mohegan Tribal Publications

The Mohegan's Tantaquidgeon Museum will reopen this spring following significant renovations. The Tantaquidgeon Museum, located on Church Lane in Uncasville, near the Mohegan Church, is the oldest Native-run museum in America. Established in 1931 by John and Gladys Tantaquidgeon, the museum displays a variety of art and artifacts collected and donated by Mohegan families or repatriated from other museums.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon (1899-2006), who devoted her professional life to preserving Native culture, continued to lead visitors through the museum until 1998. Over the years, tens of thousands of schoolchildren have toured the museum. In a 1996 *New York Times* story, Gladys said "Knowing that this information is going to be passed on to future generations has always been my goal."

Tantaquidgeon Museum Photos: Bill Gucfa, Mohegan Tribal Publications

The museum is dedicated to preserving and protecting the ongoing legacy of the Mohegan Tribe and informing people about the rich Mohegan history, culture and traditions.

Chief Harold Tantaquidgeon, who also played a major role in the development of the museum, believed that raising awareness and understanding was the key to preserving Mohegan culture and nationhood. His quote, "It's harder to hate someone that you know a lot about," continues to guide the Tribe today.

The renovated museum will continue to display a wide range of Mohegan items, including a large collection of handmade baskets and other artifacts documenting the Tribe's history.

***The Mohegan Way*: Published by the Mohegan Tribal Council.**
For further information, contact: mweditor@moheganmail.com or check us out on the Web at www.mohegan.nsn.us.

The Mohegan Way is GOING GREEN

In the Mohegan Tribe's continuing efforts to become more environmentally responsible, we have made a decision to now print *The Mohegan Way* on Mohawk Options paper, which is:

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